

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211212

47 40

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:PSPERENYI:MG

APPROVED BY S/PRS - ROBERT L. FUNSETH

S/S - MR. KUCHEL

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O 051846Z SEP 75 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 211212

TODEP 035

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (INGERSOLL, ROBERT)

SUBJECT: PRESS SUMMARY, SEPTEMBER 5, L975

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL FROM S/PRS

1. "FORD URGES SPEEDY VOTE ON AMERICAN ROLE IN SINAI " -
RICHARD LYONS, NEW YORK TIMES:

"PRESIDENT FORD & SECRETARY KISSINGER ASKED CONGRESS TODAY
TO APPROVE THE STATIONING OF AMERICANS IN SINAI WITHIN TWO
AND A HALF WEEKS, STATING THE SPEEDY ACTION WAS NECESSARY SO
THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ACCORD COULD GO INTO EFFECT. . .

"'THIS IS A GAMBLE FOR PEACE,' THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS
SECRETARY, RON NESSEN, QUOTED THE PRESIDENT AS HAVING SAID.
MR. NESSEN ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD STATED THAT THE USE
OF AMERICANS IN SINAI WAS 'A RISK I'M WILLING TO TAKE.' ...

"DESPITE THE OPEN OPPOSITION TO THE PLAN BY THE SENATE
MAJORITY LEADER, MIKE MANSFIELD OF MONTANA, A HALF-DOZEN OR
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MORE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES FORECAST THAT THE

PRESIDENT'S REQUEST WOULD BE APPROVED.

"SEVERAL OF THE 16 DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING SAID THAT MR. KISSINGER HAD TOLD THEM THAT QUICK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL HAD BEEN TIED TO ISRAELI TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM ADVANCE POSITIONS. . .

"IN AN EFFORT TO WIN PROMPT ACTION, MR. KISSINGER WENT BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHERE HE WAS CLOSELY QUESTIONED ABOUT THE SINAI AGREEMENTS.

"ON EMERGING TWO AND A HALF HOURS LATER, MR. KISSINGER SAID THAT 'THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL KNOW EVERYTHING WE ARE COMMITTED TO.'

"SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN, DEMOCRAT OF SOUTH DAKOTA, WHO ALSO IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, SAID MR. KISSINGER HAD TOLD THE MEMBERS THAT HE WOULD REVEAL THE SECRET SECTIONS OF THE ACCORD TO THOSE KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO SOUGHT TO KNOW BUT ONLY ON THE PROMISE THAT THEY NOT BE REPEATED."

2. "SADAT SAYS SOVIET IS TRYING TO SPLIT ARABS OVER SINAI" - HENRY TANNER, NEW YORK TIMES:

"PRESIDENT SADAT ACCUSED THE USSR TODAY OF SEEKING TO DIVIDE THE ARAB COUNTRIES BY STAYING AWAY FROM THE SIGNING OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN GENEVA.

"DENOUNCING THE SOVIET UNION FOR AN ATTITUDE OF 'FLAGRANT INCITEMENT,' HE ALSO ATTACKED ARAB CRITICS OF THE ACCORD -- SYRIAN LEADERS AND OTHER ARAB 'BROTHERS' -- AND DEPLORED ANTI-EGYPTIAN DEMONSTRATIONS STAGED IN DAMASCUS THIS MORNING. . .

"JUST ANOTHER STEP: 'IF OUR AIM WAS SOLELY THE RECOVERY OF SINAI, WE WOULD HAVE ACHIEVED FAR MORE THAN WE DID,' HE DECLARED. 'THE NEW AGREEMENT DOES NOT REALIZE WHAT I WANTED. IT IS JUST ANOTHER STEP ON THE PATH TO PEACE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE STALEMATE.'

"EGYPT, HE SAID, STOOD UP FOR THE ARAB CAUSE, CONTRARY TO THE ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST HIM IN SOME ARAB CAPITOLS.

"'WE WERE OFFERED THE RETURN OF THE WHOLE OF SINAI AT THE PRICE OF ENDING THE STATE OF WAR WITH ISRAEL,' HE ASSERTED, 'BUT WE SAID 'NO' BECAUSE WE WERE NEGOTIATING

FOR THE SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN CAUSE AS WELL AS OURS. . ."

3. "STATE DEPARTMENT IS HEARTENED BY ANTI-RED MOVES IN LISBON" - DAVID BINDER, NEW YORK TIMES:

"STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TOLD CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TODAY THAT THEY WERE MORE HOPEFUL ABOUT THE OUTLOOK IN PORTUGAL AS A RESULT OF RECENT GAINS OF MORE MODERATE FORCES.

"THIS ESTIMATE WAS GIVEN IN TESTIMONY BY A DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, L. BRUCE LAINGEN, IN A CLOSED SESSION OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS.

"EMERGING FROM THE SESSION, LARRY WINN, JR., REPUBLICAN OF KANSAS, SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT MR. LAINGEN AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT WITNESSES APPEARED TO BE 'A BIT MORE OPTIMISTIC' ABOUT PROSPECTS IN PORTUGAL . . .

"THE DOMINANT VIEW IN THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, ACCORDING TO SENIOR POLITICAL ANALYSTS, IS THAT THE PORTUGUESE ANTI-COMMUNISTS ARE NOW STRONG ENOUGH TO OUST THE COMMUNISTS AND PRO-COMMUNISTS FROM LEADING GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY POSITIONS.

"THE EXPECTATION OF TWO OF THESE ANALYSTS IS THAT THE FORCES WHO HAVE RALLIED AROUND MAJ. ERNESTO MELO ANTUNES, FORMERLY A MEMBER OF THE HIGH COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION, WILL SOON MOVE DECISIVELY TO REMOVE THE COMMUNISTS -- IF POSSIBLE WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

"THE ANALYSTS SAID THAT AS FAR AS THEY COULD TELL, MAJ. UNCLASSIFIED

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ANTUNES WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER, MARIO SOARES, AND WOULD RELY ON HIM FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT IF THE COMMUNISTS AND PRO-COMMUNISTS WERE ELIMINATED . . ."

4. "SOVIETS SHOW ANGER AT U.S. POLICIES" - PETER OSNOS, WASHINGTON POST:

"THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAS SOUGHT FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS TO PORTRAY ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AS STEADILY IMPROVING, IS NOW SHOWING INCREASING RESENTMENT AT THE AMERICAN STAND ON MANY MAJOR ISSUES.

"FROM THE MIDDLE EAST TO PORTUGAL, ON NUCLEAR STRATEGY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRADE, THE SOVIETS ARE EXPRESSING SHARP

DIFFERENCES WITH THE UNITED STATES IN TERMS AS STRONG AS ANY EMPLOYED IN THE DETENTE AREA.

"THE ACTIONS OF SUCH LEADING ADMINISTRATION FIGURES AS SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER AND DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER ARE BEING STRONGLY CRITICIZED IN THE

PRESS -- IN THE CASE OF SCHLESINGER, REPEATEDLY AND BY NAME.

"THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN BUILDING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS DESPITE THE DIVERSIONS OF THE HELSINKI MEETINGS BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND SOVIET LEADER L. BREZHNEV AND THE APOLLO-SOYUZ MISSION.

"WITH THOSE TWO EVENTS -- MORE CEREMONIAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE -- OUT OF THE WAY, THE MOUNTING DISPLEASURE IS BECOMING CLEARER. . .

"ALTHOUGH ALWAYS COUCHED IN TERMS OF CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR DETENTE AND THE NEED FOR CLOSER SOVIET-AMERICAN TIES, MOSCOW'S UNHAPPINESS ON MANY FRONTS TENDS TO OVERWHELM SUCH POSITIVE COMMENTS ON PROGRESS AS DO APPEAR . . .

"MOSCOW SEEMS TO BE MAKING THE CASE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS LESS COMMITTED TO SUPERPOWER COOPERATION THAN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVIET UNION AND THAT WASHINGTON IS PREPARED TO TAKE POSITIONS MERELY BECAUSE THEY CHALLENGE THOSE HELD BY THE KREMLIN.

"CAREFULLY EXEMPTED FROM THIS VIEW ARE THE CONTINUING SALT TALKS, THE CORNER STONE OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN EFFORT TO EASE TENSIONS . . ."

5. "EUROPEANS WORRIED BY PRESSURE ON U.S. TO REDUCE A-WEAPONS" - CRAIG WHITNEY, NEW YORK TIMES:

"THE 7,000 AMERICAN TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS STORED IN EUROPE ARE BECOMING A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ISSUE AS THE WESTERN ALLIES PREPARE TO RESUME TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN TROOPS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

"THE WESTERN EUROPEANS ARE NERVOUS ABOUT PRESSURE ON THE FORD ADMINISTRATION FROM CONGRESS, IN A POST-VIET-NAM MOOD, TO TAKE SOME OF THE WARHEADS BACK HOME, WITH OR WITHOUT NEGOTIATIONS. CRITICS IN CONGRESS ASSERT THAT IT IS DANGEROUS AND ENTANGLING TO HAVE SO MANY SO

CLOSE TO THE FRONT LINE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST.

"THE WEST GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY IS ESPECIALLY UNEASY ABOUT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S RECENT PROPOSAL TO OFFER TO REDUCE THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR ARSENAL IN EUROPE BY A THOUSAND WARHEADS TO TRY TO GET THE TALKS MOVING AFTER TWO YEARS OF DEADLOCK....

"MR.KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL IS BEING EXAMINED BY EXPERTS AT THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION S HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS. 'IT IS SO COMPLICATED AN ISSUE,' A

WEST GERMAN OFFICER SAID, 'THAT IT LOOKS AS THOUGH IT CANNOT BE AGREED ON WITHIN NATO BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS RESUME IN VIENNA.'

"ACCORDING TO RELIABLE INFORMANTS IN BRUSSELS AND BONN, THE UNITED STATES SUGGESTED THAT IT OFFER TO WITHDRAW THE THOUSAND WARHEADS, SOME AIRCRAFT AND SURFACE-TO-UNCLASSIFIED

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SURFACE ROCKETS AND 29,000 TROOPS FROM CENTRAL EUROPE IF THE RUSSIANS WOULD WITHDRAW AN ENTIRE TANK ARMY -- 1,700 ARMORED VEHICLES AND 68,000 MEN. AFTER SUCH A REDUCTION, THE WEST HOPES, THE RUSSIANS CAN BE INDUCED TO WITHDRAW PROPORTINATELY MORE MEN AND TANKS THAN THE UNITED STATES . . . "

6. "NATO SIZE SEEN BALANCING SOVIET STRENGTH" - BERNARD NOSSITER, WASHINGTON POST:

"THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS WARSAW PACT ALLIES CONTINUE TO ENJOY A DECISIVE EDGE OVER NATO IN NUMBERS OF SOLDIERS, TANKS AND PLANES. BUT THE HIGHER QUALITY OF NATO WEAPONS AND THE SHEER SIZE OF ITS DEFENSE WOULD MAKE ANY ATTACK SO COSTLY THAT A ROUGH PARITY EXISTS.

"THESE ARE THE CHIEF FINDINGS OF 'THE MILITARY BALANCE-1975-1976,' AN UNOFFICIAL BUT AUTHORATATIVE GUIDE TO THE WORLD'S MILITARY FORCES, ISSUED TODAY. . . "

7. "VISIT TO ROMANIA" - "GENERAL FREDERICK C. WEYAND, U.S. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, CONFERRED WITH ROMANIA'S DEFENSE MINISTER DURING A LITTLE-PUBLICIZED VISIT TO BUCHAREST THAT RAISED SPECUALTION ABOUT A POSSIBLE ARMS DEAL."

ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE211212
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PSPERENYI:MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750307-1056
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750979/aaaacrpp.tel
Line Count: 275
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS SUMMARY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1975 FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL FROM S/PRS
TAGS: SOPN, (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S)
To: HELSINKI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006